

WIGAN
Rural District Council

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1937

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J. Starr & Sons, Ltd., Printers, Dawber Street Works,
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Wigan Rural District Council



Chairman :

A. E. WILDING, ESQ., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

E. T. HAMPSON, ESQ., J.P.

Councillors :

C. BUNKER, ESQ.

J. GRAHAM, ESQ.

S. HORRIDGE, ESQ.

R. I. RANDALL, ESQ.

Clerk :

W. GORDON PIGOT, Solicitor.

Staff Public Health Department :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

R. J. ORMSBY, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

J. HOLDING.

Water Inspector ,

W. R. WRIGHT,

The Laburnums,

Standish,

June, 1938.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Wigan
Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Eighth Annual Report, and I wish to thank you for your kindly interest taken in all matters affecting the health and sanitation of the district.

I also take this opportunity of thanking Mr. J. Holding and his staff for their valuable assistance during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. J. ORMSBY, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Wigan Rural District Council

STATISTICS

Population—Census 1921.....	6,296
Population—Census 1931.....	6,168
Population—Estimated 1936	6,870
Population—Estimated 1937	7,149
Acreage of Townships	11,696
Density of Population per acre	1.63
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,153
Rateable Value of District	£38,954
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£129

Births and Deaths :—

	Male.	Female.	Total
Live Births—Legitimate	62	48	110
„ Illegitimate	1	3	4
	—	—	—
Total	63	51	114
	—	—	—
Still Births	3	4	7
Deaths	97	56	41

Deaths from Puerperal causes :

Puerperal Sepsis.....	Nil.
other Puerperal Causes	1
Birth Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population	15.9
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of Total Births	57.0
Death Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population	13.5
Deaths from Cancer.....	7
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	2

Influenza	6
Bronchitis	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	3
Congenital Debility	8
Nephritis.....	2
Suicide	1
Other Violence	9
Liver Disease	1
Puerperal Disease	1
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	1
Diarrhoea, (under 2 years).....	2
Other Defined Causes	10
Peptic Ulcer	1
Other Tuberculosis	1
	<hr/>
	97

The number of deaths in each Township was as follows :

Shevington	40
Wrightington	32
Parbold	12
Haigh	5
Dalton	7
Worthington	1
	<hr/>
	97

CANCER.—7 deaths occurred from Cancer in 1937, compared with 8 in 1936, 9 in 1935.

The death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 1.57, compared with 1.16 in 1936.

The mean of 5 years, 1932-1936, was	1.57
Decrease in 1937, on 5 years' average, 1932-1936, was ...	0.60
„ „ „ previous year was	0.19

INFANTILE DEATHS.—11 Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age occurred in 1937, 5 males and 6 females compared with 5 during 1936.

Wrightington : 3 Deaths—

- M. 3 days. Congenital Heart Disease.
- F. 4 days. Injury at Birth.
- F. 10 months. Acute Bronchitis.

Shevington : 7 Deaths —

- M. 1 week. Congenital Heart Disease.
- F. 2 hours. Premature Birth.
- M. 1 day. „ „
- M. 2 months „ „
- F. 4 months. Convulsions.
- F. 3 months. Acute Diarrhoea.
- M. 8 months. Cerebro Spinal Fever.

Haigh : 1 Death.—

- F. 1 month. Premature Birth.

The Death Rate of Infants under one year per 1,000 Live Births was	96
The rate for England and Wales was	58
The mean of 5 years, 1932-1936 was	63
For year 1936	46
For year 1937	96
An increase in 1937 on 5 years' average 1932-1936.....	33
Previous year.....	50

INFECTIOUS FEVERS.—41 cases of Infectious Fevers were notified compared with 35 cases in 1936.

	1936	1937
Scarlet Fever.	18	6
Pneumonia.	10	23
Diphtheria.	4	8
Erysipelas.	3	2
Enteric Fever	0	2

Distribution over the several parishes was as follows :—

Wrightington.

Scarlet Fever	4 cases.
Diphtheria	4 „
Pneumonia	6 „
Erysipelas	1 „
Enteric Fever	1 „

Dalton.

Pneumonia	4 cases.
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Parbold.

Pneumonia	3 cases.
Diphtheria	1 „

Shevington.

Pneumonia	7 cases.
Scarlet Fever	2 „
Enteric Fever.....	1 „
Diphtheria	2 „
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1 „
Erysipelas	1 „

Worthington.

Pneumonia	1 case.
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Haigh.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1 „
Pneumonia	2 „
Diphtheria	1 „
Erysipelas	1 „

TUBERCULOSIS.—3 deaths, 2 males 1 female, occurred from Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) in 1937 compared with 3 deaths in 1936.

1 death occurred from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1937.

6 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred in 1937 compared with 3 cases for 1936.

8 new cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified compared with 6 cases for 1936.

The mean of 5 years, 1932–1936	0.51
Year—1936	0.43
Year—1937	0.41

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.—The Social Conditions still show little variation. Occupations and Industries are varied and cover numerous activities, the chief of which are agriculture, stone quarrying, bleaching and dyeing, and linoleum manufacture. No new works have been established in the District, but there does not appear to have been any falling off in trade and unemployment is not extensive. Conditions of occupation have no apparent serious prejudicial effect on health.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.—Arrangements are made with outside authorities for the reception and treatment of infectious cases where necessary. The cost of Hospital treatment for the year ending 31st March, 1937, was £182 15s. 6d.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.—A good supply of water is available in all Parishes though there are still isolated houses which have their own private supplies.

The Parishes obtained supplies from the following souces :—

HAIGH	Blackrod U.D.C.	} Upland Surface Water.
WORTHINGTON	Standish U.D.C.	
SHEVINGTON.....	{ Standish U.D.C.	
	{ Wrightington	Deep Well Water
DALTON	Wrightington	„ „ „
PARBOLD	Own Supply	„ „ „
WRIGHTINGTON	Own supply	„ „ „

During the year considerable improvements in water supplies have been carried out in Haigh and Shevington. 3,000 yards of new mains were laid in Haigh and 500 yards in Shevington where no mains previously existed, and in addition the distributive systems have been improved in both parishes to remedy shortages. The total cost was £8,000.

An additional Pump has also been completed at Wrightington Pumping Station, and No. 1 Pump was thoroughly overhauled to avert the danger of a water shortage. Preparations are also proceeding to instal a Water Softening Plant at the Parbold Waterworks.

SEWERAGE.—The Council have provisionally approved Draft Sewerage Schemes for the Parishes of Shevington, Parbold and Wrightington, and the preparation of the schemes is in the hands of the Surveyor.

CONVERSIONS.—During the year 42 Privy Closets were converted to W.C.'s, and 30 to Pail Closets. Moveable Ashbins were provided to 40 houses to replace Ashpits.

The Council do not contribute towards the cost of conversions, and all the foregoing have been done in response to informal notices.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Scavenging of the District is carried out by direct labour and the Council's own Motor Wagon. Since 1st June Dalton scavenging has been carried out under contract by a Motor Wagon.

The Statistics for the last 4 years are as follows :—

	1934	1935	1936	1937
No. of Bins Emptied	36,359...	43,470 ...	54,884 ...	56,720
No. of Closet Pails Emptied	17,505...	17,625 ...	17,230 ...	17,112
No. of Ashpits Emptied ...	2,331...	2,255 ...	1,540 ...	1,385
No. of Cesspools Emptied	1...	8 ...	22 ...	31
Total Tonnage	3,816 tons ...	3,908 tons...	3,982 tons...	4,012 tons
Mileage	8,111 mls ...	8,576 mls....	8,788 mls....	9,200 mls.
Total Cost	£1,123 ...	£1,055 ...	£1,082 ...	£1,049
Cost per ton	5/10d. ...	5/4 ³ / ₄ d. ...	5/5 ¹ / ₄ d. ...	5/2 ³ / ₄ d.

These figures show that the gradual increase in refuse removal has continued, though there has been a slight reduction in total cost compared with previous years.

The method of disposal is by tipping into disused pits or hollow land and the larger tips are covered as frequently as possible with earth and kept levelled.

HOUSING.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.—Building development, whilst showing no signs of ceasing, has not been continued as rapidly as in former years. Drainage is discharged into septic tanks and the effluent into the nearest watercourse, or in some instances into the Council's sewer.

NEW BUILDINGS.—During 1937, 83 New Dwelling Houses were erected in the Rural District, all by private enterprise.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Not	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	22	1	Nil.
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	12	1	Nil.
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' Premises)	Nil	Nil.	Nil.
Total	34	2	Nil.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	1	1		
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of Drainage of Floors	Nil.	Nil.		
Other Nuisances				
Sanitary Accommodation	1	1		
{ insufficient	1	1		
{ unsuitable or defective	1	1		
{ not separate for sexes.....				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other offences				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total	3	3		

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

The Housing Statistics are as follows :—

Number of new Houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	83
(i) By the Local Authority	Nil.
(ii) By other Local Authorities	Nil.
(iii) By other bodies or persons	83
(b) <i>With State Assistance under the Housing Acts.</i>	
(i) By the Local Authority (included under (a) (i) above) ...	Nil.
(ii) By other bodies or persons (included under (a) (ii) above)	Nil.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected during the year for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	64
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose.....	130
(2) (a) Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	15
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose.....	15
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in such a state so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation	12
(4) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	19

2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices :*
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authorities or their officers 7

3 Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(i) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs..... 4

(ii) Dwelling Houses rendered fit after service of formal notice :—

(a) By Owners 4

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) No. of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 18

(2). No. of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :

(a) By Owners 12

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil

C. Proceedings under Secs. 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

1. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 1

2. Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in persuance of Demolition Orders..... 1

D. Proceedings under Sec. 12, of the Housing Act, 1936:

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit..... Nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936.—PART IV. OVERCROWDING :—

- (a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 26
2. Number of families dwelling therein 28
3. Number of persons dwelling therein 174
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year Nil
- (c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 1
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 6

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—Lime washing is carried out twice during the year or as often as may be necessary. The number of Cowkeepers who are Accredited Producers is 8.

Sanitary conditions on the whole in the remaining cowsheds are also good.

MILK SAMPLING.—Samples are taken quarterly by the Sanitary Inspector of all milk in the district supplied to School children.

No. of Dairy Farms in the District.....	84
Approximate Number of Cows	700
No. of Cowkeepers (including Dairy Farms)	138
Number on Register.....	138
Number of Inspections during the year	282
Dairymen other than cowkeepers	6
Number on Register.....	6
Number of Samples of Milk under Tuberculosis Order ...	20

Results : Positive 2 ; Negative 18.

MEAT INSPECTIONS.—There are three registered slaughter houses, two with shops attached and one other meat shop. Frequent inspections are made and any unsound meat rejected.

Many vans sell meat in the district, and these are also inspected. 5 parts of carcasses or organs were condemned as being unfit for food on account of tuberculosis, and 12 for diseases other than tuberculosis. These were surrendered voluntarily by the owners and destroyed.

R. J. ORMSBY, M.O.H.

Table showing Consumption by Trade and Domestic Users.

Parish	Estimated “ Water ” Population	Average Daily Consumption. (in gallons)			Average Consumption per day per head of “ Water ” Population.		
		Domestic	Trade	Supplied to other Districts	Domestic	Trade	Total
WRIGHTINGTON—Appley Bridge	1000	15,410	16,880	to Shevington	15.41	16.88	32.29
“ Mossy Lea	500	5,323	1,625	3,357	10.60	3.25	13.85
“ Hildale and Highmoor	400	4,412	2,178	Bispham 1441	11.03	5.44	16.47
AVERAGE.....	12.52	8.52	21.04
SHEVINGTON	2,500	39,410	6,720	...	15.76	2.65	18.41
PARBOLD	850	19,340	1,820	...	22.75	2.14	24.89
HAIGH	685	1,984	16,180	To Aspull 8,112	2.89	23.62	26.51
DALTON	330	3,357	2904		10.17	8.80	18.97
TOTAL.....		89,236	48,307	Averages	12.82	9.14	21.96

48,307

Average Daily Total 137,543

